

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 ACDA-09 DODE-00 SY-02 USSS-00

EB-03 SAM-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CG-00 EUR-09 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 070930Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5076

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, JA

SUBJECT: WRAP-UP ON POSSIBLE SHIP HIJACK STORY

REFS: (A) 500 MIG, CAMP ZAMA 030745Z OCT 74

(B) NAVINVSERVO JAPAN 030910Z OCT 74

(C) NAVINVSERVO JAPAN 040831Z OCT 74

(D) TOKYO 12501

SUMMARY: JAPANESE POLICE INVOKED FULL SECURITY MEASURES
AT KOBE PORT OCTOBER 4 IN RESPONSE INFORMATION FROM ROK SOURCE
THAT RED ARMY ELEMENTS WOULD ATTEMPT TO HIJACK A US SHIP DURING
ITS BRIEF STOPOVER. THE SHIP CAME AND WENT WITHOUT INCIDENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO REFS A AND B, SOUTH KOREAN CONSULATE AT
KOBE INFORMED JAPANESE POLICE OCTOBER 3 THAT "RED ARMY ELEMENTS"
WOULD ATTEMPT TO HIJACK A US CONTAINER SHIP DURING
ITS KOBE PORTCALL ON OCTOBER 4. THE SHIP, "SS BIENVILLE", CARRYING
SOME US MILITARY CARGO FROM NAHA, OKINAWA, WAS SCHEDULED TO
ARRIVE AT KOBE EARLY OCTOBER 4 AND LEAVE THAT AFTERNOON FOR PUSAN.

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2. JAPANESE POLICE INVOKED FULL SECURITY MEASURES

THROUGHOUT THE SHIP'S STAY IN KOBE OCTOBER 4, ACCORDING TO REF C. THEY USED ABOUT 50 MEN TO COMPLETELY SEAL OFF THE AREA IN WHICH THE SHIP WAS DOCKED, AND SIX ADDITIONAL MEN TO SCREEN EVERYONE AT THE GATE. THEY ALSO MADE A COMPLETE SEARCH OF THE SHIP. TO ASSURE ITS SAFE, OUTWARD PASSAGE THROUGH THE INLAND SEA, THE MARTIME SAFETY AGENCY ALERTED PATROL CRAFT AND STATIONS ALONG THE SHIP'S ROUTE. THE SHIP SAILED TO SOUTH KOREA WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT POLICE BELIEVED THE SOUTH KOREAN REPORT WAS QUESTIONABLE BECAUSE THE RED ARMY WAS PROBABLY WIPED OUT AS AN ORGANIZATION IN JAPAN IN EARLY 1972 (REF D). NEVERTHELESS, THEY DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH SECURITY MEASURES BECAUSE OF THE OFF-CHANCE THAT SOME OTHER EXTREMIST GROUP MIGHT HAVE TRIED SOMETHING.

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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